

CHAPTER 25A—CROWN OF THORNS STARFISH

Sec.	
1211.	Congressional statement of purpose.
1212.	Investigation and control of crown of thorns starfish.
1213.	Authorization of appropriations.

§ 1211. Congressional statement of purpose

For the purpose of conserving and protecting coral reef resources of the tropical islands of interest and concern to the United States in the Pacific and safeguarding critical island areas from possible erosion and to safeguard future recreational and esthetic uses of Pacific coral reefs, the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution are authorized to cooperate with and provide assistance to the governments of the State of Hawaii, the territories and possessions of the United States, including Guam and American Samoa, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and other island possessions of the United States, in the study and control of the seastar "Crown of Thorns" (*Acanthaster planci*).

(Pub. L. 91-427, §1, Sept. 26, 1970, 84 Stat. 884; 1970 Reorg. Plan No. 4, eff. Oct. 3, 1970, 35 F.R. 15627, 84 Stat. 2090.)

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

"Secretary of Commerce" substituted in text for "Secretary of the Interior" in view of: creation of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Department of Commerce and Office of Administrator of such Administration; abolition of Bureau of Commercial Fisheries in Department of the Interior and Office of Director of such Bureau; transfers of functions, including functions formerly vested by law in Secretary of the Interior or Department of the Interior which were administered through Bureau of Commercial Fisheries or were primarily related to such Bureau, exclusive of certain enumerated functions with respect to Great Lakes fishery research, Missouri River Reservoir research, Gulf Breeze Biological Laboratory, and Trans-Alaska pipeline investigations; and transfer of marine sport fish program of Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife by Reorg. Plan No. 4 of 1970, eff. Oct. 3, 1970, 35 F.R. 15627, 84 Stat. 2090, set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

TERMINATION OF TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

For termination of Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, see note set out preceding section 1681 of Title 48, Territories and Insular Possessions.

§ 1212. Investigation and control of crown of thorns starfish

In carrying out the purposes of this chapter, the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution are authorized to—

(1) conduct such studies, research, and investigations, as they deem desirable to determine the causes of the population increase of the "Crown of Thorns", their effects on corals and coral reefs, and the stability and regeneration of reefs following predation;

(2) to monitor areas where the "Crown of Thorns" may be increasing in numbers and to determine future needs for control;

(3) to develop improved methods of control and to carry out programs of control in areas where these are deemed necessary; and

(4) to take such other actions as deemed desirable to gain an understanding of the ecology and control of the seastar "Crown of Thorns".

(Pub. L. 91-427, §2, Sept. 26, 1970, 84 Stat. 884; 1970 Reorg. Plan No. 4, eff. Oct. 3, 1970, 35 F.R. 15627, 84 Stat. 2090.)

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

Transfer of functions to Secretary of Commerce from Secretary of the Interior by Reorg. Plan No. 4 of 1970, see note set out under section 1211 of this title.

§ 1213. Authorization of appropriations

For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this chapter, there is authorized to be appropriated for the period commencing on September 26, 1970, and ending June 30, 1975, not to exceed \$4,500,000.

(Pub. L. 91-427, §3, Sept. 26, 1970, 84 Stat. 884.)

CHAPTER 25B—REEFS FOR MARINE LIFE CONSERVATION

Sec.	
1220.	State applications for obsolete ships for use as offshore reefs.
	(a) Conservation of marine life.
	(b) Manner and form of applications; minimum requirements.
	(c) Copies to Federal officers for official comments and views.
1220a.	Transfer of title; terms and conditions.
1220b.	Obsolete ships available; number; equitable administration.
1220c.	Denial of applications; finality of decision.
1220c-1.	Financial assistance to State to prepare transferred ship.
	(a) Assistance authorized.
	(b) Amount of assistance.
	(c) Terms and conditions.
1220d.	"Obsolete ship" defined.

§ 1220. State applications for obsolete ships for use as offshore reefs

(a) Conservation of marine life

Any State may apply to the Secretary of Transportation (hereafter referred to in this chapter as the "Secretary") for obsolete ships which, but for the operation of this chapter, would be designated by the Secretary for scrapping if the State intends to sink such ships for use as an offshore artificial reef for the conservation of marine life.

(b) Manner and form of applications; minimum requirements

A State shall apply for obsolete ships under this chapter in such manner and form as the Secretary shall prescribe, but such application shall include at least (1) the location at which the State proposes to sink the ships, (2) a certificate from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, that the proposed use of the particular vessel or vessels requested by the State will be compatible with water quality standards and other appropriate environmental protection requirements, and (3) statements and estimates with respect to the conservation goals which are sought to be achieved by use of the ships.

(c) Copies to Federal officers for official comments and views

Before taking any action with respect to an application submitted under this chapter, the

Secretary shall provide copies of the application to the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Defense, and any other appropriate Federal officer, and shall consider comments and views of such officers with respect to the application. (Pub. L. 92-402, §3, Aug. 22, 1972, 86 Stat. 618; Pub. L. 98-623, title II, §207(1), (2), Nov. 8, 1984, 98 Stat. 3397.)

AMENDMENTS

1984—Subsecs. (a), (b). Pub. L. 98-623, §207, substituted “Secretary of Transportation” for “Secretary of Commerce” and “obsolete ships” for “Liberty ships”, wherever appearing.

ENVIRONMENTAL BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR PREPARING VESSELS FOR USE AS ARTIFICIAL REEFS

Pub. L. 107-314, div. C, title XXXV, §3504(b), Dec. 2, 2002, 116 Stat. 2754, as amended by Pub. L. 108-136, div. C, title XXXV, §3516, Nov. 24, 2003, 117 Stat. 1795, provided that:

“(1) Not later than March 31, 2004, the Secretary of Transportation, acting through the Maritime Administration, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall jointly develop guidance recommending environmental best management practices to be used in the preparation of vessels for use as artificial reefs.

“(2) The guidance recommending environmental best management practices under paragraph (1) shall be developed in consultation with the heads of other Federal agencies, and State agencies, having an interest in the use of vessels as artificial reefs.

“(3) The environmental best management practices under paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) include recommended practices for the preparation of vessels for use as artificial reefs to ensure that vessels so prepared will be environmentally sound in their use as artificial reefs;

“(B) promote consistent use of such practices nationwide;

“(C) provide a basis for estimating the costs associated with the preparation of vessels for use as artificial reefs; and

“(D) include mechanisms to enhance the utility of the Artificial Reefing Program of the Maritime Administration as an option for the disposal of obsolete vessels.

“(4) The environmental best management practices developed under paragraph (1) shall serve as national guidance for Federal agencies for the preparation of vessels for use as artificial reefs.

“(5) Not later than March 31, 2004, the Secretary of Transportation, acting through the Maritime Administration, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall jointly establish an application process for governments of States, commonwealths, and United States territories and possession, and foreign governments, for the preparation of vessels for use as artificial reefs, including documentation and certification requirements for that application process.

“(6) The Secretary of Transportation shall submit to Congress a report on the environmental best management practices developed under paragraph (1) through the existing ship disposal reporting requirements in section 3502 of Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (as enacted into law by Public Law 106-398; 1654A-492) [16 U.S.C. 5405 note]. The report shall describe such practices, and may include such other matters as the Secretary considers appropriate.”

§ 1220a. Transfer of title; terms and conditions

If, after consideration of such comments and views as are received pursuant to section 1220(c) of this title, the Secretary finds that the use of obsolete ships proposed by a State will not vio-

late any Federal law, contribute to degradation of the marine environment, create undue interference with commercial fishing or navigation, and is not frivolous, he may transfer without consideration to the State all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to any obsolete ships which are available for transfer under this chapter if—

(1) the State gives to the Secretary such assurances as he deems necessary that such ships will be utilized and maintained only for the purposes stated in the application and, when sunk, will be charted and marked as a hazard to navigation;

(2) the State agrees to secure any licenses or permits which may be required under the provisions of any other applicable Federal law;

(3) the State agrees to such other terms and conditions as the Secretary shall require in order to protect the marine environment and other interests of the United States; and

(4) the transfer would be at no cost to the Government (except for any financial assistance provided under section 1220c-1 of this title) with the State taking delivery of such obsolete ships at fleetside of the National Defense Reserve Fleet in an “as is—where is” condition.

(Pub. L. 92-402, §4, Aug. 22, 1972, 86 Stat. 618; Pub. L. 98-623, title II, §207(1), (3), Nov. 8, 1984, 98 Stat. 3397; Pub. L. 107-314, div. C, title XXXV, §3504(a)(2), Dec. 2, 2002, 116 Stat. 2754.)

AMENDMENTS

2002—Par. (4). Pub. L. 107-314 inserted “(except for any financial assistance provided under section 1220c-1 of this title)” after “at no cost to the Government”.

1984—Pub. L. 98-623 substituted “obsolete ships” for “Liberty ships” wherever appearing in provisions preceding par. (1) and in par. (4), and substituted “may transfer” for “shall transfer” in provisions preceding par. (1).

§ 1220b. Obsolete ships available; number; equitable administration

A State may apply for more than one obsolete ship under this chapter. The Secretary shall, however, taking into account the number of obsolete ships which may be or become available for transfer under this chapter, administer this chapter in an equitable manner with respect to the various States.

(Pub. L. 92-402, §5, Aug. 22, 1972, 86 Stat. 618; Pub. L. 98-623, title II, §207(1), Nov. 8, 1984, 98 Stat. 3397.)

AMENDMENTS

1984—Pub. L. 98-623 substituted “obsolete ships” for “Liberty ships” wherever appearing.

§ 1220c. Denial of applications; finality of decision

A decision by the Secretary denying any application for a¹ obsolete ship under this chapter is final.

(Pub. L. 92-402, §6, Aug. 22, 1972, 86 Stat. 618; Pub. L. 98-623, title II, §207(1), Nov. 8, 1984, 98 Stat. 3397.)

¹ So in original. Probably should be “an”.

AMENDMENTS

1984—Pub. L. 98-623 substituted “obsolete ship” for “Liberty ship”.

§ 1220c-1. Financial assistance to State to prepare transferred ship

(a) Assistance authorized

The Secretary, subject to the availability of appropriations, may provide, to any State to which an obsolete ship is transferred under this chapter, financial assistance to prepare the ship for use as an artificial reef, including for—

- (1) environmental remediation;
- (2) towing; and
- (3) sinking.

(b) Amount of assistance

The Secretary shall determine the amount of assistance under this section with respect to an obsolete ship based on—

- (1) the total amount available for providing assistance under this section;
- (2) the benefit achieved by providing assistance for that ship; and
- (3) the cost effectiveness of disposing of the ship by transfer under this chapter and provision of assistance under this section, compared to other disposal options for that ship.

(c) Terms and conditions

The Secretary—

- (1) shall require a State seeking assistance under this section to provide cost data and other information determined by the Secretary to be necessary to justify and document the assistance; and
- (2) may require a State receiving such assistance to comply with terms and conditions necessary to protect the environment and the interests of the United States.

(Pub. L. 92-402, §7, as added Pub. L. 107-314, div. C, title XXXV, §3504(a)(1)(B), Dec. 2, 2002, 116 Stat. 2754.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 7 of Pub. L. 92-402 was renumbered section 8 and is classified to section 1220d of this title.

§ 1220d. “Obsolete ship” defined

For purposes of sections 1220, 1220a, 1220b, and 1220c of this title, the term “obsolete ship” means any vessel owned by the Department of Transportation that has been determined to be of insufficient value for commercial or national defense purposes to warrant its maintenance and preservation in the national defense reserve fleet and has been designated as an artificial reef candidate.

(Pub. L. 92-402, §8, formerly §7, as added Pub. L. 98-623, title II, §207(4), Nov. 8, 1984, 98 Stat. 3397; renumbered §8, Pub. L. 107-314, div. C, title XXXV, §3504(a)(1)(A), Dec. 2, 2002, 116 Stat. 2754.)

CHAPTER 26—ESTUARINE AREAS

Sec.

1221. Congressional declaration of policy.
1222. General study and inventory of estuaries and their natural resources.
 - (a) Estuaries included; considerations; other applicable studies.

Sec.

- (b) Federal or State land acquisition or administration; other protective methods.
- (c) Report to Congress; recommendations; authorization for acquisition of lands; consultation with States and Federal agencies; accompanying statement of views, probable effects, and major trends.
- (d) Authorization of appropriations.
1223. Agreements with States and subdivisions; equitable sharing of costs; development improvements; availability of appropriations; State hunting and fishing laws applicable.
1224. Commercial and industrial development considerations; reports to Congress; recommendations.
1225. State consideration of protection and restoration of estuaries in State comprehensive planning and proposals for financial assistance under certain Federal laws; grants; terms and conditions, prohibition against disposition of lands without approval of the Secretary.
1226. Federal agency authority to carry out Federal project within an estuary unaffected.

§ 1221. Congressional declaration of policy

Congress finds and declares that many estuaries in the United States are rich in a variety of natural, commercial, and other resources, including environmental natural beauty, and are of immediate and potential value to the present and future generations of Americans. It is therefore the purpose of this chapter to provide a means for considering the need to protect, conserve, and restore these estuaries in a manner that adequately and reasonably maintains a balance between the national need for such protection in the interest of conserving the natural resources and natural beauty of the Nation and the need to develop these estuaries to further the growth and development of the Nation. In connection with the exercise of jurisdiction over the estuaries of the Nation and in consequence of the benefits resulting to the public, it is declared to be the policy of Congress to recognize, preserve, and protect the responsibilities of the States in protecting, conserving, and restoring the estuaries in the United States.

(Pub. L. 90-454, §1, Aug. 3, 1968, 82 Stat. 625.)

§ 1222. General study and inventory of estuaries and their natural resources

(a) Estuaries included; considerations; other applicable studies

The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation and in cooperation with the States, the Secretary of the Army, and other Federal agencies, shall conduct directly or by contract a study and inventory of the Nation's estuaries, including without limitation coastal marshlands, bays, sounds, seaward areas, lagoons, and land and waters of the Great Lakes. For the purpose of this study, the Secretary shall consider, among other matters, (1) their wildlife and recreational potential, their ecology, their value to the marine, anadromous, and shell fisheries and their esthetic value, (2) their importance to navigation, their value for flood, hurricane, and erosion control, their mineral value, and the value of submerged lands underlying the waters